CLASSY BACKSTOPS ARE NOT NUMEROUS THIS SEASON

reckoning on good receivers.

The catcher rather than the pitcher is the real mainspring of the basebase machine. Stationed behind the batsman, he has greater opportunities than the pitcher for observing what a cer-tain batter can and cannot lit. Knowing the man with whom be works, he can tell if his curves are breaking right, can make him work slowly when he is inclined to hurry and can make him hurry when he inclines to the con-

Watcher of Bases.

The catcher is the chief watcher of the bases when occupied, passes sig-nals for the pitcher throwing to catch runners too far from the bags and signals the proper time for delivering

he ball to the bat.
Aside from all this mental effort, he must snatch off any kind of curve the must snatch off any kind of curve the pitcher lets loose, must dig up wild pitches that go into the ground and must chase the clusive foul fly. Ho must block runners who slide into the plate and must take his turn at the bat. All this work keeps a man of average intellect or physical ability outle bus.

Yet the catcher, so the majority of the fans think, is a mere machine that stops the curves thrown by the pitcher that the batter misses. Catching is a difficult job in more ways than one, and good catchers are scarce.

Must Use Judgment In Throwing.

There are many catchers in the business with wonderful throwing arms, and still they are not regarded as particularly dangerous; certainly not as great backstops. The chief rea-gon is that they do not use proper ludgment in the use of this ability. Base runners soon come to know how well any catcher throws and what librties can be taken with him, how big lead can be taken off any base and whether the catcher is likely to take a chance on nipping him off second at ritical moments. Great catchers selom throw to bases promiscuously. They go after a base runner only when be becomes too bold and gets too far off the bag, making the play practically ture of success. Base runners soon come to fear such a man more than the one who is continually heaving to the infielders. The catcher who is constantly throwing to get base runners stands more chance of making bad and costly throws than the one who is con-

Crawford rapped out another. Cobb you that he is as good as Kling. The is not the catcher physically that he was up next, and the situation was dangerous. Every one who witnessed the game will remember how Brown forced Cobb to bunt, thus forcing O'Leary out at third. Then came Kling's great throw to Tinker at second, catching Crawford off that bag the bat probably has been the best of and removing the possibility of a run any backstop up to date, while he hits for the American leaguers should like a demon.

Schlel, New York's catcher, has not yet got into the stride that he pursured the second world's championship for the Chicago team.

Schlel, New York's catcher, has not yet got into the stride that he pursued when he was with the Cincinnati Reds. but he has shown that he is an excellent man to have on the receiving and of the battery, and before the search of the battery, and before the search of the battery and before the search of the battery.

Importance of Position.

are two things no catcher can ever be laurels. taught. There are certain general rules about how to mix up curves, speed and slow balls to a batter, but marvel of the league. He pulls off the catcher to figure out what the man with the stick is looking for and then cross him. There is where headwork counts if it doesn't anywhere else. A catcher can be taught the weakness of the batsmen, but he must possess this quality as well or he is stop honors.

Who I: the Greatest?

There are at least five catchers in the National league who seem to run a close race for first honors. If a vorwere taken as to who was the greatest backstop in the older organization the men named would undoubtedly be chosen. Archer, who succeeded Moran as the Cubs' regular backstop is do.

By TOMMY CLARK.

Bergen is considered the best catcher backstop. He is an excellent thrower and slow on the bases of that Brooklyn has had in years. Gibson is the hero of the Pittsburg Pland and money in building and money in building and money in great pitching staffs without the great pitching staffs are cekening on good receivers.

The catcher rather then the pitcher is a far and a great field general. Much of the bases of the room and slow on the bases of the room and noticing Donovan's octomer and slow on the bases. Owens is a clean catcher and a clever thrower. Charley Schmidt has looked good thrower in the pitcher of the room and noticing Donovan's octomer signal to Goch. Johnny kept on, if going at the top speed he used to travel can be called "keeping of the weakness of many star batters.

Charley Schmidt has looked good thrower in the world's series, where he persists in playing like an amateur. If the world's series could be thrown and by a long and account of the mankers having formed account of the many star batters.

The way the writer sizes up the persists in playing like an amateur. If the world's series could be thrown and by a long and account to their weak batsmen to experiment to their weak batsmen to experiment to their sizes of the room and noticing Donovan's octomer that Brooklyn has had in years. Gibson on the bases of the good work is due to repart that the point were raised to r diameter of thrower. Charley Schmidt has looked good throw weak batsmen to experiment to their weak of the room and cever thrower. Charley Schmidt has looked good throw weak batsmen to sever since he joined the Deroits except in the world in the stars and near stars. If the legal the top speed the "go home" signal to Goch. Johnny kept on, if going at the top speed the "go home" signal to Goch. Johnny the stars and near stars. If the legal the top speed the "go home" signal to Goch. Johnny the stars and near stars. If the legal the top of the "go home" signal t

Sam groaned and a look of pitying disgust wafted its way over the mo-

Lajoie Believes He Was Greatest Nat-

ural Ball Player.

Nap Lajole, manager of the Cleve land Americans, believes that Ed Delahanty was the greatest natural ball

player that the game has ever known.

When it comes to hitting, he puts him

This discussion came up recently

when Jim McGuire was telling about his experience in Philadelphia while a member of the Brooklyn club. Joe

McGinnity was then in his prime and was considered a wonder and always a

"I shall never forget that day," re-arked McGuire. "Ed Delahanty marked McGuire. "Ed Delahanty came up to bat the first time and sent a ball up against the clubhouse for a

home run, and then you came up, Larry Not to be outdone, you hit it up in the bleacher seats for a homer. Then Delahanty remarked: 'Why, that Mc-Ginnity a pitcher! He can't even

"We won the game that day—4 to 3
—for that was the only inning you
people hit him. But those two drives

were the longest drives in succession I

ever saw in my baseball career. I guess you and Delahanty could not swat the ball those days? Say, Larry,

if you could get that same healthy

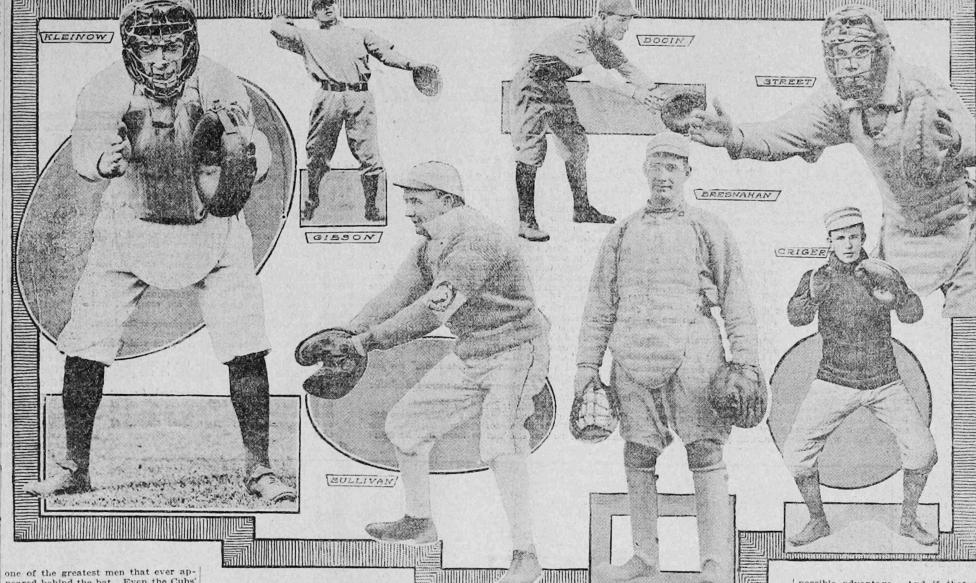
in a class by himself.

terror to a batter.

drive a wagon.'

bile features of the sturdy twirler. PRAISE FOR ED DELAHANTY.

Some of the Leading Catchers of the American and National Leagues.



Kling's Great Throwing. peared behind the bat. Even the Cubs' manager says he doesn't miss Kling a The greatest illustration of the value of the conservative throwing catcher of the conservative throwing catcher of the conservative throwing catcher of the absent one perfectly. True, he has been a big factor in their winning many games this season, and he is a tween the Chicago Nationals and the Detroit Americans. The fourth inning of that game was one of the greatest, ever played on a base on him, for he can throw of the greatest, ever played on a base on him, for he can throw that he accuracy of a crow's flying. He also is not the worst batter in the game, but has the happy faculty of bestore. That inning o'Leary of the Detroits led off with a base hit, and Detroits led off with a base hit, and Crawford rapped out another. Cobb control of the conservative throwing catcher in the date of the conservative throwing catcher in the player and that Archer fills the shoes of the world's of the absent one perfectly. True, he has been at little bit and that Archer fills the shoes of the world's of the absent one perfectly. True, he has been a big factor in their winning one of the greatest. He has been at it for rebout twelve years, however, and is not the catcher physically that he is a spend as the best catchers of the two leagues. In the American league you can the foremost catchers of the two leagues. In the American league you can the foremost catchers of the two leagues. In the American league you can the foremost catchers of the two leagues. In the American league you can the foremost catchers of the two leagues. In the American league you can the foremost catchers of the two leagues. In the American league you can the foremost catchers of the two leagues. In the Catchers of the two leagues. In the Catchers of the two leagues. In the Catchers of th

end of the battery, and before the sea-son closes he may do real first class Outguessing a batter and knowing in work. Myers, the Indian, in another which direction a foul ball is going year will make the stars look to their

they are not absolute, and it is up to hair raising catches of fouls day after

merely a mechanical player. The abilling to know which way to turn to go after a foul ball is intuitive; it cannot be taught to any man.

Stop honors.

Roger Bresnahan used to be regarded the foremost catcher in the country; but, having the managerial responsibilities of the St. Louis Cardinals upon his shoulders, he has prac-tically relinquished the duties of back-With Johnny Kling of the Chicago stop. He very seldom plays now, and Nationals out, it is a hard task to pick the best catchers in the game today. display his old time form. Phelps,

Bresnahan, Bergen, Schlei, McLean,

Boston has two good catchers in the presentation c. "The Blue Corrigan and Donohue, the latter be- Mouse," was a newspaper woman be-

possible advantage. And if that did not produce the desired change there remains the suggestion to increase slightly the size of the ball itself. This could not be made much larger with-out a loud protest from the fielders and the possible ruination of the de-fense, but a slight addition to the size of both bat and ball surely would show results in batting without any other perceptible effect on the game.

PLAYERS LIKE OLD MITTS.

New Gloves Cause All Kinds of Trouble For Diamond Stars.

Baseball players after they break in nothing more than a tissue of rags. for they have an affection for a well broken glove. It is a fact that in many cases glaring errors are made by players who for the time being are wearing some other player's glove or perhaps are just breaking in a new coming dramatic season will be the

A well broken glove is like a well known as a clever romantic actor, in broken shoe—it is easy to the hand, and the man wearing it learns to repose confidence in his finger covering, and, having such confidence, he can do a great deal better work than he could with a new or a strange glove.

The breaking in of a glove, even by a seasoned old leaguer, is a serious

a serious

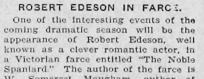
times.

Just before the Detroits went on to Chicago to play the world series of games last fall Bill Donovan, the champion pitcher of the American league, bought himself a new glove, and one morning he was in the clubplayer when Delahanty was with

event and is attended with a great deal of anxiety. It is the subject of swing started again I guess that 300 interest above all others to the rest mark would not look so far away."

of the players. "Yes, Del and I were pals and room-

ous lubricating preparations, came into take the time.



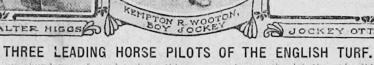
"Yes, Del and I were pals and room-mates in those days," broke in Lajoie rocess has to be treated with a varlety of oils and greases in order to ever saw or expect to see again. They make it pliable. Every player has talk about Wagner, Ty Cobb and mysome secret preparation to rub on his self as hitters. Why, he was in a class glove in which he has unbounded by himself. There is no comparison. I faith, but the majority of the spike shoe genuises use vaseline as a starter. After this has well soaked in then leading the league year in and year pour on their oils at different out with the stick. He was a grand

house rubbing vaseline on it when Sam Crawford; who used to be a barber and who knows all about the vari-



BEAUTIFUL HIDWIG REICHER, WHO IS TO STAR IN AMERICA.

Fraulein Hedwig Reicher, who has been a reigning success in leading German theaters for several years, is to make her debut as an English speaking sectress the coming season in America. The play selected for her initial appearance in this country is entitled "On the Eve," a drama of contemporance books like a comer, for he is a good sticker and excellent thrower. Sween-pearance in this country is entitled "On the Eve," a drama of contemporance by, the big boy from Atlants, is a good youngster, but lacks experience, and any dame on hears frequent advice from the spectators urging this or that country is entitled "On the Eve," a drama of contemporance by, the big boy from Atlants, is a good youngster, but lacks experience, and any benefit of the ball and shot it to Cather Farrel a yard ahead of Brad-lev. McCarthy was socoting town of the third at this juncture, and Farrell three back to Collins to get Jack. There back to Collins to get Jack. There back to Collins to get Jack. There back to Collins to get Jack was poor, and McCarthy tried to Scove. Jimmy rroved a good retrieved, the foremost actor on the German stage, who is the kaiser's theatrical adviser. She made her debut at the tender age of fifteen as Nora in Ibsen's "Dollig House," the great Nora and the tender age of fifteen as Nora in Ibsen's "Dollig House," the great Nora and the tender age of fifteen as Nora in Ibsen's "Dollig House," the great Nora and the tender age of fifteen as Nora in Ibsen's "Dollig House," the great Nora and the tender age of fifteen as Nora in Ibsen's "Dollig House," the great Nora and the tender age of fifteen as Nora in Ibsen's "Dollig House," the great Nora and the tender age of fifteen as Nora in Ibsen's "Dollig House," the great Nora and the tender age of fifteen as Nora in Ibsen's "Dollig House," the great Nora and excellent throwers. Sween-tender the best was poor, and McCarthy on first when Dutch Cather Farrell as yard ahead of Brad-lev. Collins to get the ball and sh



Johnny Bull has an abundance of good jockeys this stason. Among the lot the splendid riding of Madden, Higgs and Wooton stands out as best. The work of the latter in the saddle has been the sensation of the English turf this season. He is now leading the winning horse pilots with a big majority. Wooton is the youngest jockey on the turf abroad. He has just passed his fifteenth birthday. Wooton piloted his first winner in a race

getting the ball on him, Clarke being Connie Mack has worked wonders the superior of the two. Outside of the with Ira Thomas. The latter was a

JOCKEY WALTER HIGGS &

Washington Has Prize In Street.

"Nig" Clarke is one of the classiest ing a brother to "Jiggs" Donohue of fore she became an actress. At pres backstoppers in either league. No rethe Chicago White Sox. Pat has many celver can peg any stronger or get the ball away quicker than "Nig," or Justin, as he wishes to be called. Clarke puts the ball on the runner well at the also has more passed bails than some plate and looks as if he were due to of the other stars. As for Ted Easter-ly, he is above the average as a catch-hardworking backstopper and can be er, a thrower and a sticker. Both the depended upon for good work. He is Cleveland catchers are strong in one of the best batting catchers in the blocking a runner at the plate and in league.

Latest Expedient is the Use of Eigger Bats and Balls.

first mentioned, the best catchers in failure as a backstop when a member the American league are Kleinow of New York, Stephens of St. Louis, Corrigan of Boston, Stange and Schmidt of Detroit and Ira Thomas of the Athletics. Stephens is one of the youngest men in the league, but he has a wise old head on his young shoulders—in the writer would reach them in the league, but he has a wise old head on his young shoulders—in the writer would reach them in the league, but he has a wise old head on his young shoulders—in the writer would reach them in the league, but he has a wise old head on his young shoulders—in the writer would reach them in the league, but he has a wise old head on his young shoulders—in old head on his young shoulders—in the writer would place them in the fact, McAleer regards him as his most valuable catcher.

Street, Criger, Stephens, Thomas, Schmidt, Kleinow and Corrigan.

Machinet and the writer would place them in the schemes devised and discarded have been widening the angle of the foul lines, so as to produce more fair ter-

backstopping this year. He gets the baseman, but it is doubtful if he ever backstopping this year. He gets the threw out three men at the plate on ball away like a shot, is a very sure one batted ball, as Jimmy Collins, one thrower and hits fairly well. By all odds he is the best catcher that broke into either of the big leagues within the last two years. Jack Kleinow of the last two years. Jack Kleinow of New York has gone back a little. At Jack McCarthy on first, when Dutch that he is folgue, better work than he Gechnauer sent expect the plate on three cleveland players were the victure. The baseman, but it is doubtful if he ever the outleters of stand inside a marked square until a ball is hit, so as to prevent "laying for" the batsmen and increasing the resilience of the ball. So far as noticed, however, no one has suggested increasing the suggested incre

JOCKEY OTTO MADDEN

Those wiseacres of the baseball world lines, so as to produce more fair ter-ritory for the fielders to protect; put-In Street Washington has one who ranks with the best. He caught 134 captain Harry Lord of the Boston games last year and seldom had a bad day and has done the bulk of the backetorphic this year. He caught 134 baseman, but it is doubtful if he ever the outfielders to stand inside a marked

